

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for remotely monitoring and/or controlling a home device performed on a web-based host, the method comprising:
 - 5 establishing a connection with a remote device;
 - receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;
 - establishing a connection with a home; and
 - communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home,wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring
10 information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a home device in the home to be controlled.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving authentication information from the remote device; and
 - 15 determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device has permission to access the home.
3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the
 - 20 graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

5 receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and
communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

10 6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event;
receiving information which describes the event; and
communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

15 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

20 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

9. A computer system for remotely monitoring and/or controlling a home device, the computer system comprising:
one or more computers connected to one or more remote devices via a
25 network;

one or more computer programs executable by the computers, wherein the computer programs comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with a remote device;

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;

5 establishing a connection with a home; and

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home, wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a home device in the home to be controlled.

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10. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving authentication information from the remote device; and

determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device

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has permission to access the home.

11. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the

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graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

12. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
25 comprise computer instructions for:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the
monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

13. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
5 comprise computer instructions for:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of
communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based
host to the home; and

communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

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14. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home
has detected an event;

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receiving information which describes the event; and

communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

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15. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the remote device is a wireless
telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

16. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the remote device is a wired
telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

17. A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer programs executable by one or more computers, one or more of the computer programs comprising computer instructions for:

- establishing a connection with a remote device;
- 5 receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;
- establishing a connection with a home; and
- communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home,
- wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring
- information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a
- 10 home device in the home to be controlled.

18. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

- receiving authentication information from the remote device; and
- 15 determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device has permission to access the home.

19. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

- 20 communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the
- graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a
- home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote
- device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

20. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

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21. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

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22. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event; receiving information which describes the event; and communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

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23. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

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24. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

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25. A method for monitoring and/or controlling a home device performed on a home attendant, the method comprising:

establishing a connection with a web-based host; and

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based

5 host.

26. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home

device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home

10 device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

27. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home

15 device has detected an event; and

if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-based host.

20 28. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

29. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

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30. The method of Claim 25 wherein the home device is a stand-alone device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

31. An apparatus for monitoring and/or controlling a home device, the
5 apparatus comprising:
a microprocessor;
a memory connected to the microprocessor; and
one or more computer programs executable by the microprocessor,
wherein the computer programs comprise computer instructions for:
10 establishing a connection with a web-based host; and
receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-
based host.

32. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
15 communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home
device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home
device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

20 33. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating with a home device to determine whether the home
device has detected an event; and
if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure
connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-
25 based host.

34. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

5 35. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

10 36. The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein the home device is a stand-alone
device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

15 37. A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer
programs executable by one or more computers, one or more of the computer programs
comprising computer instructions for:
establishing a connection with a web-based host; and
receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based
host.

20 38. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the
computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:
communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home
device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home
device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

39. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home device has detected an event; and

5 if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-based host.

40. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

41. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

15 communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

42. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the home device is a stand-alone device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

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